





# THE A. F. OF L. REPORTS ON THE CONVENTION

## Brief Summary of the More Important Questions That Now Confront the Wage Workers of North America—Labor's Principles, Aspirations and Hopes Are Discussed and Recommendations for Their Realization Made.

Herein is printed a synopsis of the A. F. of L. Executive Council's report to the Philadelphia convention. The full report comprises over 10,000 words, and covers the largest number of subjects ever discussed by the Council. Jurisdiction differences are omitted in this summary, as are other questions possessing a local rather than a national character.

The following subjects, necessarily referred to in the briefest manner, will serve to impress upon trade unionists and sympathizers the American Federation of Labor's wide range of activities:

### International War and Peace.

The Executive Council declared that the present European conflict has reversed all the purposes and interests of civilization and has exalted agents and methods of destruction above constructive activity and human progress. The products of hand and mind, human skill and ability, human life itself, are ruthlessly sacrificed to ends of war.

The terrible waste and awful consequences are presented as reasons for action to prevent the recurrence of war. The E. C. declared: "Wars will cease only when society is convinced that human life is really sacred and that society estimates its progress, international as well as national, for protecting lives." Organized labor has been the leader in establishing this ideal.

But, the E. C. pointed out, there must be something more than a sentiment and a conviction for peace. Militarism and competitive armaments must be abolished; international political institutions must be established.

A report is made upon the transmission to the affiliated unions of the International Federation of Trade Unions of the resolutions adopted by the Seattle Convention enforcing the naval holiday plan.

regard to efforts to maintain international peace the E. C. concludes:

"This convention should, we must, adopt some constructive suggestion, and some action upon this world problem which so intimately affects the workers of all countries."

### Labor Day—Labor Sunday.

The section entitled Labor Day and Labor Sunday emphasizes the importance and significance of these two days dedicated to Labor. Incorporated in the section is the declaration of the Executive Council upon the importance of Labor Day celebrations and urging the continuation of formal celebrations. The Executive Council urges upon delegates to the convention that they carry their home movements, a message and conviction that shall result in the increasing purposefulness and value of special labor celebrations.

### Organization of Women Earners.

The results of this special campaign, authorized by the Seattle convention, are summarized. The brief review indicates the influence that have retarded the organization of women earners, difficulties encountered by present special effort. It is difficult to place the proper value upon initial efforts in any campaign, but in addition to the results, these efforts show gratifying concrete gains in the organization of women earners. The committee on Education and Labor, with the recommendation that the Seattle convention endorse the following resolutions, is urged to place the proper value upon initial efforts in any campaign, but in addition to the results, these efforts show gratifying concrete gains in the organization of women earners. The committee on Education and Labor, with the recommendation that the Seattle convention endorse the following resolutions, is urged to place the proper value upon initial efforts in any campaign, but in addition to the results, these efforts show gratifying concrete gains in the organization of women earners.

### Labor Forward Movement.

Economic organization is the most fundamental activity of the American Federation of Labor. The forward movement demonstrates the increasing favor which this line of endeavor has found, and indicates different methods that have been employed and the degree of success that has resulted. As is stated, the section does not present a complete summary of the forward movements conducted because, in many cases, no report was made to headquarters. The Executive Council most earnestly urges upon every community the adoption of special organized effort to strengthen and extend the trade union movement and urges that those directing these movements forward to headquarters.

### Social Insurance.

The Seattle convention adopted resolutions dealing with the protection of workers in industry. A resolution was passed recommending an educational campaign on accident insurance, and that that matter be more advantageously dealt with by the individual international unions. In regard to the other authorizing and instructing the Executive Council in regard to the social insurance and trade union insurance, the E. C. reports that the information desired has been secured, but recommends that they be authorized to continue their study of the problems of social insurance costs, and with the availability of an insurance fund for the purpose of the cost of trade union benefits.

### Massachusetts' Model Labor Law.

The text of the Massachusetts act between employers and laborers and limiting the issuance of injunctions to the purpose of securing the best law upon this matter enacted by any state. The Executive Council recommends that all affiliated unions should be urged to secure the adoption of similar legislation.

workmen's compensation law may be enacted at the earliest possible time by Congress.

In accordance with Resolution No. 51 of the Seattle Convention, the Federal Employers' Liability Act is being introduced to the clerks, carriers and special messengers employed in the post office department; that compensation bills applying to railroad employees engaged in interstate commerce were introduced in both Houses, and that the report of Vice President James Dunsmuir, of the House, and the report of the special committee to investigate the subject of Workmen's Compensation, was published as Senate Document No. 419, Sixty-third Congress, second session.

The number of states that have enacted compensation legislation has been increased to twenty-four, and the best provisions of compensation legislation are being incorporated in these laws.

Attention is called to two features of fundamental importance: The scale of compensation to be paid to workmen under two-thirds of the wages with provisions for necessary medical and hospital care, and the payment of compensation awards, and the commission on the part of the Federal Government, all state and central bodies are urged either to secure compensation laws or to amend their standards or to amend present laws bringing them into conformity with newer and better ideals.

### Automatic Stop Systems for Railroads.

Amendments to Hours of Service. These two sections deal with efforts to require railroads to adopt automatic stop systems for the purpose of service act by increasing the minimum penalty for violation.

### Seamen's Legislation.

Seamen's legislation has encountered most bitter opposition in this session of Congress. The bill as introduced to the Seattle convention, passed the Senate with only a majority of one.

This bill was reported to the House with amendments and was adopted. The bill was referred back to the Senate Committee on Commerce, which has not yet taken action.

The bill as amended, the Council urges that they be authorized to direct to the Senate the Seamen's bill in the next session of Congress.

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authorized into the conduct of two Federal judges are reported. One of the inquiries resulted in the resignation of Justice Wright of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. In response to the inquiry, the judge prosecuted the miners of West Virginia by his misuse of injunctions, a report from the House Judiciary Committee is expected in the near future.

Popular Government. Efforts to make the government more responsive and responsible to the people, both in spirit and in method, together with the experiences of various states, which prove the necessity for guarding against certain restrictions, safeguards and jokers, are reviewed.

Advancement in Mississippi and Arkansas, and the necessity for protecting the popular lawmaking against the influence of the political party, are discussed. The national fund efforts to secure the enactment of a stringent Federal corrupt practices act must be continued.

Attention is called to the valuable work of the National Popular Government League and its bureau of information.

Legal Department of the A. F. of L. Upon this matter, the Executive Council was not yet prepared to make a report and recommended that they be authorized to continue their investigation in regard to the proposed department.

Proposed Welfare Amendments to State Constitutions. Upon the proposed welfare amendments to state constitutions which the Executive Council has further considered and recommendations are reported.

Workmen's Compensation laws are recommended as a better method for the purpose of securing the general welfare of employees.

Municipal Ownership. The committee on investigation of European municipal ownership of street railways has completed its investigation and its report is expected to be published in the near future.

United States Commission on Industrial Relations. The report of the United States Commission on Industrial Relations is expected to be published in the near future.

Organized Farmers and the Agricultural Credit Bill. The committee on investigation of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union, endorsement of the bill, is expected to be published in the near future.

Seizure of Michigan Copper Lands. The subcommittee of the House Committee on Mines and Mining made a report on the seizure of Michigan copper lands, but has not yet made its report.

The Situation in the Mining Field. Upon this caption are presented the reports of the committee on the mining field, which have resulted from military government, and the various State Federations of Labor urged to secure legislation to protect the miners' organizations.

A. F. of L. Office Building. The most discussed question takes the form of a bill to authorize the E. C. for power and authorization to construct or purchase a building for an office building for the A. F. of L. and its departments.

Sunday Rest Movement. The E. C. accepted the invitation of the "International Lord's Day Convention" to hold the annual convention of the Congress to be held in San Francisco, July 1915.

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ters related to the labor movement, and that the discussions and lectures be made so simple for the layman that the distance of organized workers lecturing upon the labor movement.

A. F. of L. Library. Consideration has been given to the matter of enlarging the library of the Executive Council, which is both practical and economical reported.

Salaries in the various organizations collecting information that would be serviceable to our library and various ways of securing free contributions of books and other publications are suggested.

Wage Increase for Postal Employees. The Postal Employees' Association has been granted a wage increase of 10 percent.

Post Office Clerks—Night Work. Amendment to Postal Savings Bank. Teamsters in Post Office Employ.

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### SECRETARY'S REPORT

While figures are seldom interesting, the report of Secretary Morrison now shows the growth of the American Federation of Labor, but weaved in these statistics the story of labor's advance and its ability, constantly developing, for greater things. Some idea of the magnitude of the growth of the A. F. of L. is shown in a table giving the receipts and expenditures of the organization since its founding in 1881, the receipts were \$374,000, and the expenditures were \$374,000.

Under the heading "Receipts" are listed the following items: Dues, \$1,000,000; contributions, \$250,000; interest, \$100,000; and other, \$100,000. Total, \$1,450,000.

Under the heading "Expenditures" are listed the following items: Salaries, \$1,000,000; rent, \$100,000; and other, \$100,000. Total, \$1,200,000.

The balance of the fund is \$250,000. This fund is used for the purpose of maintaining the organization and its various departments.

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